What is claimed is:

Sub B1.   1.   A computer implemented method comprising

receiving data representing a visual form of data comprising content data and
format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually

5   represented; and

identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with a template; and
storing the identified content data.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising normalizing the data
representing the visual form of data.

10   3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the data is normalized in accordance
with a displayed form of the visual form of data.

4.   The method of claim 2 wherein the visual form of data is characterized
by a plurality of dimensions characterized by at least two coordinate systems, wherein
normalizing the data representing the visual form of data includes converting values

15   expressed in the two coordinate system into a common coordinate system.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the common coordinate system is the
coordinate system of a displayed form of the visual form of data.

6.   The method of claim 4 wherein the template includes at least one
extraction instruction for identifying said at least some of the content data from the

20   received data, and the extraction instruction includes information indicating location
of at least some of the content data based on the common coordinate system.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the data representing the visual form of
data comprises data in a format required by an operating system layer for outputting
the visual form of data by a printer.

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8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the operating system layer is Windows operating system and the data representing the visual form of data is a Windows metafile.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the template includes at least one extraction instruction for identifying said at least some of the content data from the received data.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the visual form of data is characterized by a plurality of dimensions characterized by a coordinate system and the extraction instruction includes information indicating location of the desired data based on the coordinate system.

11.   The method of claim 9 wherein the visual form of data is characterized by a plurality of dimensions and the extraction instruction includes information with respect to location of a reference marker and a direction in one of the plurality of dimensions,

wherein identifying at least some of the content data includes searching in the direction for identifying at least some of the content data in the direction.

12.   The method of claim 9 further comprising:

displaying a sample visual form of data,

receiving data from a user indicating location of data selected by the user in the displayed sample visual form of data, and

forming the extraction instruction based on location data identifying the location of the data selected by the user.

13.   The method of claim 12 further comprising:

storing the extraction instruction.

14.   The method of claim 13 further comprising:

storing the extraction instruction in association with data representing the sample visual form of data.

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15.   The method of claim 1 wherein the received data further represents a plurality of visual forms of data.

16.   The method of claim 15 wherein storing the identified content data further includes:

5   storing the identified content data in association with data representing a corresponding one of a plurality of visual forms of data.

17.   Computer readable media containing a computer program comprising instructions for:

receiving data representing a visual form of data comprising content data and
10   format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually represented;

identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with a template; and storing the identified content data.

18.   Computer system comprising:
15   a input port that receives data representing a visual form of data comprising content data and format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually represented;

a processor that identifies at least some of the content data in accordance with a template; and

20   a storage media that stores the identified content data.

19.   A method comprising:
transmitting data representing a computer program comprising instructions for:

receiving data representing a visual form of data comprising content
25   data and format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually represented;

identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with a

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template; and

storing the identified content data.

20. A graphical user interface comprising:

a region for displaying a sample visual form of data,

a region enabling a user to input location data identifying a location of data selected by the user, and

a region causing a computer program to form an extraction instruction using the location data identifying the location of the data selected by the user.

21. A computer implemented method comprising:

displaying, on a display, a sample visual form of data,

displaying, on the display, a region enabling a user to input location data identifying a location of data selected by the user, and

displaying, on the display, a region causing a computer program to form an extraction instruction using the location data identifying the location of the data selected by the user.

22. Computer system comprising:

a processor, and

a display,

the processor executing instructions causing the display to:

display a sample visual form of data,

display a region enabling a user to input location data identifying a location of data selected by the user, and

display a region causing a computer program to form an extraction instruction using the location data identifying the location of the data selected by the user.

23. Computer readable media storing a program comprising instructions for:

displaying, on a display, a sample visual form of data,

displaying, on the display, a region enabling a user to input location data

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identifying a location of data selected by the user, and

     displaying, on the display, a region causing a computer program to form an extraction instruction using the location data identifying the location of the data selected by the user.

5   24.   A method comprising:

     transmitting data representing a computer program comprising instructions for:

     displaying, on a display, a sample visual form of data,

     displaying, on the display, a region enabling a user to input location

10   data identifying a location of data selected by the user, and

     displaying, on the display, a region causing a computer program to form an extraction instruction using the location data identifying the location of the data selected by the user.

15   25.   A computer implemented method comprising

     receiving data representing a visual form of data comprising content data and format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually represented;

     identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with a template; and

     initiating performance of an action based on results of said identifying of at

20   least some of the content data.

     26.   Computer readable media containing a computer program comprising instructions for:

     receiving data representing a visual form of data comprising content data and format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually

25   represented;

     identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with a template; and

     initiating performance of an action based on results of said identifying of at least some of the content data.

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27.   Computer system comprising:

a input port that receives data representing a visual form of data comprising content data and format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually represented; and

5   a processor that identifies at least some of the content data in accordance with a template and initiates performance of an action based on results of said identification of at least some of the content data.

10   28.   A computer implemented method of receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

receiving first information from a user identifying a location within the

15   displayed document, and second information specifying a desired unit of information based on a location of the desired unit of information relative to the identified location, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

20   29.   The method of claim 28 further comprising:

parsing a plurality of documents to identify units of information based on the parsing criterion.

30.   The method of claim 29 further comprising:

25   storing the identified units of information on a computer readable medium.

31.   The method of claim 28 further comprising:

parsing the document based on the parsing criterion to identify the desired unit of information.

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32.   The method of claim 31 further comprising

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processing the identified information to arrive at new information.

33.   The method of claim 31 further comprising:

receiving information identifying at least one user-definable action to be

5   performed on the identified information.

34.   Computer readable media containing a computer program for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising instructions for:

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

10   receiving first information from a user identifying a location within the displayed document, and second information specifying a desired unit of information based on a location of the desired unit of information relative to the identified location, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

15   35.   Computer system for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising:

a display that displays a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

an input port receiving first information from a user identifying a location

20   within the displayed document, and second information specifying a desired unit of information based on a location of the desired unit of information relative to the identified location, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

36.   A computer implemented method of receiving information defining a

25   parsing criterion comprising

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

receiving first information from a user identifying a visual marker within the displayed document, and second information defining a desired unit of information

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within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information with respect to the marker, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

37. Computer readable media containing a computer program for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising instructions for:

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

receiving first information from a user identifying a visual marker within the displayed document, and second information defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information with respect to the marker, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

38. Computer system for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising:

a display that displays a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

an input port first information from a user identifying a visual marker within the displayed document, and second information defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information with respect to the marker, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

39. A computer implemented method of receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

receiving first information a user identifying a region within the displayed document, and second information defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information with respect to

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the region, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

40.   The method of claim 39 wherein the second information indicates that the desired unit of information overlaps with the identified region.

41.   The method of claim 39 wherein the second information indicates that the desired unit of information is contained within the identified region.

42.   Computer readable media containing a computer program for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising instructions for:

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

receiving first information a user identifying a region within the displayed document, and second information defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information with respect to the region, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

43.   Computer system for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising:

a display that displays a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information;

an input port receiving first information from a user identifying a visual marker within the displayed document, and second information defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information with respect to the marker, wherein the information defining the parsing criterion includes the first and second information.

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44. A computer implemented method comprising

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

5   receiving first information from a user defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information and second information identifying an action to be executed depending on the existence or non-existence of the unit of information within the document.

45. Computer readable media containing a computer program comprising

10   instructions for:

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

receiving first information from a user defining a desired unit of information

15   within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information and second information identifying an action to be executed depending on the existence or non-existence of the unit of information within the document.

46. Computer system program for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising:

20   a display that displays a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

an input port that receives first information from a user defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of

25   information and second information identifying an action to be executed depending on the existence or non-existence of the unit of information within the document.

47. A computer implemented method comprising

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional

space;

receiving first information from a user defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information and second information identifying an action to be executed depending on the existence or
5   non-existence of the unit of information within a selected region of the document.

48.   Computer readable media containing a computer program comprising instructions for:

displaying a graphical user interface for displaying a multi-dimensional
10   document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

receiving first information from a user defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information and second information identifying an action to be executed depending on the existence or
15   non-existence of the unit of information within a selected region of the document.

49.   Computer system program for receiving information defining a parsing criterion comprising:

a display that displays graphical user interface for displaying a multi-
20   dimensional document containing multiple units of information displayed in a multi-dimensional space;

an input port that receives first information from a user defining a desired unit of information within the document by specifying a relative position of the unit of information and second information identifying an action to be executed depending on
25   the existence or non-existence of the unit of information within a selected region of the document.